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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 10
Regional cooperation

Morocco* and Spain: draft resolution

Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997, 1999/37 of 28 July 1999, 2001/29 of 26 July 2001 and 2003/52 of 24 July 2003,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe[1] regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held in Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Transport Conference, held in Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the fixed link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to resolution 2003/52 of 24 July 2003,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

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Taking note also of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held respectively in Rabat in September 1995 and in Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the meeting held in Brussels in 2000 by the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, which constitutes a framework for coordination among the countries of the Mediterranean basin, for the development of integrated transport networks,

Taking note further of the conclusions of the studies launched by the European Commission (INFRAMED, MED TEN-T and DESTIN) for the development of an integrated transport network in the Mediterranean basin,

Taking note of the progress of the high-level committee on extension of the main trans-European transport arteries to neighbouring countries and regions, set up by the European Commission, which considers the France-Iberian peninsula-Morocco artery to be a corridor constituting a continuation of the trans-European network,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made in deep-sea drilling project studies, and especially the work carried out, which have given a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical explorations of undersea formations;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa for the work done in preparing the project follow-up report requested by the Council in its resolution 2003/52 of 24 July 2003;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the holding in Madrid in January 2005 by the International Tunnelling Association, under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, of a seminar on "soundings and treatments";

5. *Renews* its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the studies and work on the fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2007;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the resources necessary, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.